

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-
- 2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
- 3 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
- 4 client;
- 5 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
- 6 tor identifier;
- 7 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier;
- 8 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
- 9 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and
- 10 transmitting the requested resource to the client;
- 11 e ~~d.~~) responsive to the request not including ~~the~~ a visitor identifier:
- 12 assigning a new visitor identifier;
- 13 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier
- 14 to the client;
- 15 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-
- 16 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
- 17 ~~and~~

responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
determining that the client does not accept visitor
identifiers; and
transmitting the requested resource to the client.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

3. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier;

c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier; and

c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

and;

c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that step d.3) has been performed;

d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that
step d.3) has been performed;
assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address; ~~and~~
determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
identifiers; and
transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;
and
d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator
that step d.3) has been performed:
assigning a new visitor identifier;
sending to the requestor a redirection request including
the new visitor identifier and an indicator
that step d.3) has been performed, the redirection
request being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource;
and
repeating steps a-d.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining
2 whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:
3 comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor iden-
4 tifiers; and,
5 in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid
6 visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include
7 the visitor identifier.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at
3 least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor iden-
4 tifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-
2 prising:
3 repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a resource.

11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for performing the steps of:

a) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

b) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier;

b.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

b.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers; and

b.3) causing the communication interface to transmit the requested resource to the requestor;

c) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier;

ac.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that step ec.3) has been performed;
bc.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step ec.3) has been performed;
assigning a visitor identifier;
determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and
causing the communication interface to transmit the requested resource to the requestor;
0c.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator that step ec.3) has been performed;
assigning a new visitor identifier;
causing the communication interface to send to the requestor a redirection request including the new visitor identifier and an indicator that step ec.3) has been performed, the redirection request being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource; and

a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a
session end for a particular visitor identifier; and
a repository for:
storing data sent with the request for the resource;
responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, storing
data associated with the visitor identifier and determining
that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers; and
responsive to the request including the indicator that step c)
has been performed, determining that the requestor
does not accept visitor identifiers.

12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein
the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client accepts
visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collection
server;
in response to the first request including a visitor identifier:

6 receiving the requested resource;
7 in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:
8 receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request
9 from the data collection server;
10 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,
11 sending a second request for a resource with the new visitor
12 identifier to the data collection server; and
13 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
14 sending a second request for a resource without the new vis-
15 itor identifier to the data collection server; and
16 receiving the requested resource.

1 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the visitor
2 identifier comprises a cookie.

1 16. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-
2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
3 sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-
4 tion server;
5 in response to the first request including a visitor identifier:
6 receiving the requested resource;
7 in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

8 a) receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request
9 from the data collection server, the redirection request in-
10 cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed;
11 b) responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,
12 sending a second request for a resource with the new visitor
13 identifier to the data collection server, the second request in-
14 cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed; and
15 c) responsive to the client not storing the new visitor iden-
16 tifier, sending a second request for a resource without the
17 new visitor identifier to the data collection server, the second
18 request including an indicator that step c) has been per-
19 formed; and
20 d) receiving the requested resource.

1 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the visitor
2 identifier comprises a cookie.

1 18. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming
3 one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a client
4 accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
6 client;
7 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
8 tor identifier;
9 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
10 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
11 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and
12 transmitting the requested resource to the client;
13 e d.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:
14 assigning a new visitor identifier;
15 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier
16 to the client;
17 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-
18 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
19 ~~and~~
20 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
21 determining that the client does not accept visitor
22 identifiers; and
23 transmitting the requested resource to the client.
24

1 19. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming
3 one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a requestor
4 accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
6 having an address;

7 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

8 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier;

9 c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier; and

10 c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

11 and;

12 c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

13 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

14 d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator
15 that step d.3) has been performed;

16 d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that
17 step d.3) has been performed;

18 assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address; and
19

20 determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
21 identifiers; and
22 transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;
23 and
24 d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator
25 that step d.3) has been performed:
26 assigning a new visitor identifier;
27 sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-
28 ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator
29 that step d.3) has been performed, the redirec-
30 tion request being adapted to cause the reques-
31 tor to retransmit the request for the resource;
32 and
33 repeating steps a-d.

1 20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19,
2 wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received
2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource
3 identified by the received request.

1 22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received
2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address
3 identified by the received request.

1 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redi-
2 rection request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator
3 that step c) has been performed.

1 24. (Cancelled).

1 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received
2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource
3 identified by the received request.

1 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received
2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address
3 identified by the received request.

1 27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein receiving a
2 redirection request comprises receiving a redirection request including an indica-
3 tor that a first request has been received, and wherein the second request for a
4 resource includes the indicator that a first request has been received.

1 28. (Cancelled).

1 29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first re-
2 quest for the resource identifies a resource, and the second request identifies the
3 resource identified by the first request.

1 30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-de until reaching a session expiration.

1 31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-de until reaching a session expiration.